

Wind-swept Wanderers warm the Islands

WYCOMBE Wanderers flew back from their Easter tour of the Channel Islands on Monday night after a hectic three-match-in-four-days-programme.

Invited to return after last season's visit, they further enhanced their reputation among the Islanders, winning two and losing one in adverse conditions.

If they went seeking the sun and warmth, they were disappointed. For while Britain enjoyed a pleasant holiday period, the Channel Islands were swept by strong winds and shivered in freezing temperatures.

Jersey F.A. 0, Wycombe Wanderers 3

Despite losing the toss and therefore being forced to kick against the wind on a heavy pitch at Springfield Stadium, St. Helier on Good Friday, Wycombe Wanderers were first to gain control.

Jersey suffered an 8th minute set back when left-back Jeff Carter cut his nose in a collision with Keith Searle and was replaced by a substitute. And in the same minute, Wanderers opened their account in the Channel Islands when a move, begun by the smooth running Geoff Anthony and carried on by John Hutchinson, was finished off by a Searle thunderbolt into the roof of the net.

Wycombe were now in full command and their second goal came as no surprise in the 20th minute. Bernie Bremer cleverly kept the ball in play, beat a man

and pushed it inside to Hutchinson, whose hard, rising shot deceived the oncoming 'keeper.

Jersey's defence came under almost continual pressure but poor Wycombe finishing curtailed their scoring potential to only one more, substitute Tony Horseman converting an 86th minute penalty. Originally the referee had ordered a free kick to Jersey for a foul by Anthony on the left-back. But the lineman's flag went up and after consultations, the referee changed his decision to a Wanderers' penalty.

WYCOMBE: Maskell; Blunt, Gale, Powell, Faulkner, Bremer, Anthony, Baker, Searle, Pritchard, Hutchinson (sub. Horseman, 76 mins.).

Jersey F.L. 1, Wycombe Wanderers 5

WYCOMBE returned to the Springfield Stadium on Saturday to claim the Visitors Cup from the Jersey Football League — a trophy originally donated by Wimbledon F.C.

This time, tour skipper Ted Powell won the toss to give his men the advantage of the wind, and on a far drier ground, they dominated the early stages completely. A tremendous Bremer volley in the 8th minute put them ahead. The shot from outside the area left the 'keeper standing. Three minutes later Bremer's kick hit a defender and rebounded to Larry Pritchard for a close range second.

Again Wanderers' total midfield command lost something due to poor finishing, and Jersey, replying through spasmodic raids, took advantage of a defensive error by Vince Faulkner to score via their centre-forward as half-time approached.

Vintage football in the 47th minute saw Wanderers increase their lead. The build up begun by Bremer, went from Pritchard to Anthony and back again for a Pritchard centre to the far post. Horseman headed across the net and Hutchinson scored a great goal.

Two minutes later Pritchard's centre was headed by a

defender to Hutchinson's feet and a volley made it 4-1. Still finding the spaces and dictating play Wanderers added a fifth after a Horseman-Bremer interchange which gave "Bodger" a clear chance.

WYCOMBE: Maskell; Blunt, Gale, Powell, Faulkner, Bremer, Hutchinson, Baker (sub. Rundle, 70 mins.), Anthony, Pritchard, Horseman.

Guernsey F.A. 2, Wycombe Wanderers 0

Definite signs of tiredness showed in Wycombe's farewell performance, when they crossed the water to St. Petersport, Guernsey, on Monday. The pitch, called the "Track" due to the cycling track encircling it, was open and therefore fully exposed to an incredibly high wind which had the flags "standing to attention."

Although winning the toss and kicking with the wind, Wycombe failed to take any advantage of the situation — and ultimately lost their chance of winning the Victory Cup.

The conditions dictated play, but Wanderers found it very heavy going, managing only one shot in 45 minutes. In this period in fact Guernsey enjoyed territorial advantage.

Using the freak wind like Wycombe had never done, they shot at every opportunity, from every angle. Guernsey scored in the 52nd and 65th minutes, and

DESPITE a late mix-up in the travelling arrangements, Wycombe Wanderers' Easter tour of the Channel Islands could be rated a success from every viewpoint.

Club treasurer, Roger Lee, agreed to act as the 'Bucks Free Press' man on the spot, for which we offer our grateful thanks.

Among the presentation ceremonies during the tour, Wycombe exchanged mementoes with each of their opponents, and the four club officials, President Mr. Monty Seymour, chairman Mr. Jack Smethurst, committeeman Mr. John Galsworthy, and Mr. Lee, all received official ties of the Jersey and Guernsey associations.

In return, Island officials were presented with Wycombe Wanderers' ties. Perhaps, though, scarves might have been more appropriate. "It was freezing cold all the time", complained Roger.

the frustration in the visitors' play could be seen ten minutes later when Searle was involved in a brief flare up with the Guernsey centre-half.

WYCOMBE: Maskell; Blunt, Gale, Powell, Faulkner, Rundle, Bremer, Horseman, Pritchard, Searle, Hutchinson (sub. Anthony, 75 mins.).